

SUSPENSION THREAT HANGS OVER BLUES' STAR

Woking 0, Wycombe W. 2
WYCOMBE'S midfield pivot, Robb Williams now faces the ominous prospect of suspension after being booked on Tuesday night for the second time in two outings, and the third in 12 months.

The uncompromising Williams had his name taken along with two Dulwich players in the first half of Saturday's match. And that, added to his caution at Walthamstow last October, could well mean an enforced rest for a key member of Wanderers' line-up.

The club held no immediate plans to appeal against his latest booking, although apparently there is a possibility they might ultimately decide to do so.

SMALL CHANCE

Certainly, as on Saturday, Williams can feel somewhat hard done by over the referee's decision. It seemed he had small chance of avoiding a collision when Woking number four, Derek Edwards raced swiftly across his path.

Mr. Patten also noted Edwards' name for retaliation. An ironic twist — Edwards was booked in the corresponding game last season!

Wanderers' two Isthmian League points cost them even dearer — the price in fact of a hamstring injury to defender

Derek Gamblin early in the second period.

A drier than usual Kingfield pitch combined with incessant whistling from Mr. Patten to disrupt the rhythm of a match, which in recent visits, has seen dazzling soccer from Wanderers.

They were pretty slick again on Tuesday. But early season errors inevitably crept into their play.

SAME PATTERN

Almost an identical pattern to the Dulwich affair emerged. Wanderers measured their opposition for a while, then used midfield supremacy to dictate the game almost completely.

The Blues fielded only one change — the towering Gerry Olsen debuting while Ian Rundle rested his suspect ankle — and justified the put in them by grabbing a decisive 2-0 interval lead.

It took much of the bite out of proceedings however, and the second half became something of an anti-climax.

Andy Christmas, not expected to appear after being concussed the previous Saturday (a 2-1 win at Bromley), was a late inclusion for Woking. Without key striker Graham Carter, the injury-plagued Surrey club lacked the necessary forward power to worry Wycombe once the first goal had been planted.

The aerial command of twin defenders, John Delaney and Gerry Olsen totally cancelled Woking attempts to outjump the champions. In turn, it nullified home plans of penetrating down the wings.

With Ken Oram sufficiently shodowed out of harm's way, Wanderers' biggest worry came via Edwards, whose utility role did much to keep Woking ticking over.

The home side also had the invariably reliable Dave Collyer to thank on many occasions.

The keeper bravely dashed off his line as early as the eighth minute to rectify a rare mistake by Edwards. An ill-advised backpass offered an open invitation for Alan Gane, only for the eager number seven to aim his shot straight at Collyer's body.

Again, the front trio — Gane, Keith Searle and Mick Hollfield — worked with aggression and imagination, backed and assisted in determined fashion by Barry Davies, Larry Pritchard and Williams.

At such an early stage of the campaign, Wanderers still have creases to iron out. But, if the link-line and attack continue to combine with such understanding and purpose, the basis for a great season is already evident.

Defensively, the Blues are yet to concede a goal. Admittedly, neither opponents offered too much of a threat, still it looks like they won't be beaten often or easily.

POT-SHOT

That was the overpowering situation confronting Woking at Kingfield. Although a 19th minute pot-shot by Dave Leonard illustrated how keenly they

looked for an off-chance in the opening minutes.

Wanderers, laying the ball off adventurously and running energetically into the open spaces, made most of the attacking motions however.

Hollfield saw a fine effort blockbusted off the home line, and Collyer gave excellent cover when Searle unleashed a threatening hook-shot from the right.

Wycombe exposed the home defence in the 23rd minute when big John Delaney pounded a long upfield ball high into the area, for Searle to head down to Gane on his right. Collyer bodied away the resulting shot, only for the Wycombe number seven to follow up, lucklessly angling his return onto the crossbar.

The first goal arrived 10 minutes later, emphasising the added value of Welsh amateur

international, Davies as a set-piece kicker.

OBSTRUCTION

From a free kick on the right — given for obstruction on Davies himself — he crashed the ball into the "box". Delaney leapt up in front of goal to head home powerfully, and record his second score in two matches.

A superb piece of running by Searle, under challenge from two home defenders, paved the way for goal number two. He coolly made ground before sending possession forward, and Gane ran through for the finishing shot.

Woking began the second half with substitute Steve Baker on for the less than fully fit Geoff Chappell in midfield. But, for all his running, he could not break Wycombe's continuing stranglehold.

A hamstring injury to Derek

Gamblin, brought Trevor Waughman on field to join the attack after 56 minutes. Gane assumed his more customary link role, while Williams fell back into defence.

Within two minutes, Williams — a hard but fair "stopper" — found himself in referee trouble again, a matter of days after his booking versus Dulwich. Edwards too fell foul of Mr. Patten.

Wycombe kept up the search for a third breakthrough. Closest they went however, was 12 minutes from time, via a high Davies' corner. Searle outjumped even Delaney to head the ball on. Hollfield was straight in to nod the ball goalward, but bobbed it instead onto the top of the crossbar.

What price luck? Mick's score from two friendlies and two League games — three disallowed "goals" and one crossbar.

M.W.

WOKING: Collyer; B. Fina, Chappell, Edwards (sub: S. Baker), half time: V. Delaney, Leonid Oram, Elliott, Christmas.

WYCOMBE: Maskell; Birdseye, Gane (sub: D. Edwards), Davies, Williams, S. Baker, G. Chappell, H. Williams, Pritchard; Gane, Searle, Hollfield.

Half time: 2-0. **Goalscorers:** Wycombe — Delaney (33), Gane (42).

Referee: Mr. D. A. Patten (Yateley).